

185-2-N

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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO

DATE

June 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

C/MOD

2.

3.

C/ESG

4.

5.

C/FED

6.

7.

C/ADD

8.

9.

C/HED

10.

11.

C/Computer Operations

12.

13.

14.

15.

Retain/Destroy

FORM 1-79

610

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

FBIS-4812-88

5 July 88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Acting Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- June 1988

## I. GENERAL

The final settlement of the main contract on the construction of the new bureau building, occupied almost a year ago, was agreed upon and the associated documents were signed on 9 June. Settlement of the architect's final claim remains to be negotiated.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The U.S. defense attache in Athens was killed by a car bomb on 2 June. The bureau filed the first report from AFP at OO precedence and followed up with confirmation and further detailed reports from Athens radio, including the 17 November organization claim of responsibility for the act.

2. Initial reports that the American ambassador in Beirut had been wounded in an attack on his motorcade on 2 June were sent ZZ from the clandestine Voice of the People radio. The major Lebanese radios were put on open watch until it was substantiated that the ambassador was uninjured.

3. In a third violent incident, a gunman failed to assassinate Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal while he was addressing a party meeting on 18 June. The bureau filed the first monitored report on the attack from AFP at OO precedence and kept the Nicosia embassy political officer apprised of developments.

4. With reports of renewed ethnic unrest in the Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, our Armenian/Persian monitor began checking an increased number of Armenian programs regularly from 12 through 20 June. The bureau also added two hours of coverage of Baku International Service in Azeri and provided telephone feeds of some Baku and Yerevan programs for a BBC contract monitor during most of the month. To ease the load on Nicosia's Persian section, the BBC assumed coverage of Tehran's early morning radio casts for several days. The Persian/Armenian monitor was called in on her day off at the beginning of this effort to check recorded programs following reports of renewed disturbances. Because of poor reception the bureau's coverage in some instances was limited to FYIs on the general content of broadcasts, and the live radio relays of the Armenian and Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet sessions could not be processed in full.

5. Responding to an alert from Washington, on 8 June the duty editor called in an off-duty Persian monitor to cover Tehran Television's evening newscasts. According to the alert, the commander of Iran's Revolution Guard Corps had made a statement to Tehran television accepting the blame for recent, major losses by Iran in its war with Iraq. However, the Tehran TV-1 cast that night and other recent casts checked by monitors did not carry such a statement. When the Iranian mojahedin reported a victory in their Mehran operation, the bureau began checking the clandestine Voice of Mojahed, a radio not normally productive and not on coverage since the closure of Gulf bureau. A number of unique items on the operation were heard and filed, and an FYI updating the status of the radio was sent. The bureau processed four items from new Iranian press coverage in the latter part of June.

6. The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad organization, which is holding several American hostages in Lebanon and has often communicated through Lebanese newspapers, changed its pattern this month, sending a letter detailing its grievances and demands to the Nicosia daily ELEVETHEROTIPIA. The letter, published on 26 June, vowed to "continue hijacking aircraft and ships and killing the enemies of the Islamic world, until the faithful children of Allah are released from prison and the occupied lands of the Muslims are free."

7. Beginning 5 June the bureau dropped its coverage of the daily 1630-1700 Moscow Greek cast beamed to Greece until the end of October to adjust the workload to allow for planned annual leave.

#### B. Lateral Services

In response to an official UK consumer query passed on by the BBC, the bureau filed a report on the behavior of the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, which for reasons unknown was off the air from 13 to 17 June but then resumed normal programming.

#### C. Communications

1. The bureau activated its TGP-1 commercial circuit data link with Caversham on 14 June when the primary circuit had been down for 15 hours. The primary circuit was restored 4 hours later.

2. The bureau participated in communications testing at Headquarters' request on 20 June, sending a series of messages using an alternative Headquarters router, and again on 24 June, sending messages using the new ZZD signal in the header.

#### D. Technical

1. The bureau has installed and initially tested a new 3.5-meter dual-band TVRO dish. The dish is not yet fully operational and has still not been formally accepted, but it is currently being used to cover Tehran TV-2 while the sole receiver on the 4.6-meter KU band dish is occupied with Tehran TV-1. A longer operating arm has been ordered to give the new dish horizon-to-horizon capability. The dish can now cover satellites at positions from 7°E to 66°E.

2. Various FAX machines were tested by the bureau during June in order to check the line and select a unit to purchase for transmission of Tehran press items to Headquarters. We were able to send facsimile transmissions to Reston and to send to and receive from some other bureaus, but we were not able to receive reliably from Headquarters. Since it appears that there is some degrading of the FAX signals on the present phone lines, a request was made to CYTA for another phone line. Once this is installed, there will be further testing.

3. The bureau received the software chosen by Headquarters for the new Procomm modem, which has already been tested for computer-to-computer communications over regular telephone lines to Field Engineering Division in headquarters using other software.

4. The bureau purchased five additional VCR's and eight TV's to increase the number of equipped TV monitoring positions. Another two Sharp multi-system multi-speed VCR's were sent to Abidjan.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

1. New Bureau Chief [ ] and his family arrived in Cyprus on 9 June, and he assumed duties 19 June.

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2. Former Nicosia Bureau Chief [ ] and family departed Cyprus on 19 June for home leave before he goes to his next post at Panama Bureau.

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### IV. VISITS

Editor trainees [ ] and [ ] completed their 3-month training TDY's and departed Nicosia on 30 June.

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[ ]

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Bureau Chief  
Nicosia Bureau